

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1793

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1219

LIMDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, SF, ZA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF RHODESIAN FRONT MP'S TO ZAMBIA MAY PAVE WAY
TO SMITH-KAUNDA MEETING

REF: LUSAKA 1204

1. SUMMARY: ADDED CONFIRMATION THAT IAN SMITH HAS
CONCLUDED HE HAS NO OTHER OPTION BUT TO FIND SOLUTION SOON
TO NATIONALIST DEMANDS FOR MAJORITY RULE WAS PROVIDED US
TODAY BY VERNON WEBBER, SENIOR ANGLO-AMERICAN OFFICIAL
IN ZAMBIA. WEBBER UNDERSTANDS SMITH MAY SOON MEET WITH
PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO DISCUSS MATTER. END SUMMARY.

2. OVER PRIVATE LUNCHEON AT RESIDENCE JUNE 27 WEBBER GAVE
ME DETAILED RUN DOWN OF BACKGROUND LEADING TO THIS NEW HOPE
FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION. OVER LAST WEEKEND SIX RHODESIAN PARLIA-
MENTARIANS LED BY INFORMATION MINISTER WICKUS DE KOCK VISITED
ZAMBIA AND MET WITH KAUNDA AT HIS MFUWE VACATION SPOT. VISIT
WAS OUTGROWTH OF MIXED BRAINSTORMING
GROUP OF POLITICIANS AND ACADEMICS CALLED "CARLTON CONFRONT-
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ATION" WHICH ANGLO-AMERICAN SPONSORS ONCE MONTHLY IN JO'

BURG. THESE LED IN TURN TO MAY CONFERENCE IN GABORONE WHICH BROUGHT TOGETHER 36 LEADERS FROM SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA, ZAMBIA, AND ANC NATIONALISTS. WEBBER HIMSELF ACCOMPANIED ZAMBIAN DELEGATE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER MARK CHONA TO GABORONE AND CLAIMS TO HAVE ADVANCED TO CHONA IDEA OF BRINGING RHODESIAN MP'S TO ZAMBIA TO SEE FIRSTHAND MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY IN ACTION. PROPOSAL PUT TO IAN SMITH BY WEBBER IN PHONE CALL AND TO KAUNDA BY CHONA. BOTH AGREED. FOMIN SPOKESMAN HAS SINCE CONFIRMED KAUNDA MET WITH SIX PARLIAMENTARIANS -- BARLOW, ANDERSON, HOLLAND, WRIGHT, SQUIRES, AND DE KOCK -- OVER WEEKEND.

3. THANKS TO ANGLO-AMERICAN HOSPITALITY IN LUSAKA, RHODESIAN GROUP MET AND SOCIALIZED WITH LEADING BLACK ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN. GROUP, LARGELY AGRICULTURAL IN ITS INTERESTS AND WAS TAKEN TO LARGE FARMS OWNED AND OPERATED BY WHITE ZAMBIANS TO HEAR THEIR EXPERIENCES. RHODESIANS WERE IMPRESSED AND REASSURED THAT IF RHODESIA GOES WAY ZAMBIA HAS GONE IN TEN YEARS SINCE INDEPENDENCE UNDER BLACK GOVERNMENT, WHITE RHODESIAN FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND LAND HOLDINGS NEED NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AS HAS BEEN FEARED. EVEN MOST DIE-HARD CONSERVATIVE BARLOW SAID HE COULD ACCEPT MAJORITY RULE. CONSENSUS OF GROUP WAS THAT SMITH NOW ALSO PREPARED ACCEPT CONCEPT OF MAJORITY RULE.

4. COURSE TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE IMMEDIATE, WEBBER SAID. WORKING PROPOSAL IS TO REACH SOME AGREEMENT IN RHODESIAN PARLIAMENT ON FIRST-STAGE 50-50 REPRESENTATION. GRADUALLY OVER PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS THIS COULD BE CONVERTED TO MAJORITY RULE AND SOME FORMULA COULD BE MADE ACCEPTABLE TO ANC. WEBBER CONTENDED RHODESIAN SOCIETY IS ALREADY FAR AHEAD OF SOUTH AFRICA. THERE ARE MANY EDUCATED BLACKS, HIGH PERCENTAGE OF CIVIL SERVICE IS BLACK, AND MIXING OF RACES IN HOTELS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES IS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED FACT.

5. PRESIDENT KAUNDA TOLD WEBBER AT MFUWE THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS MADE DURING MPS' VISIT AND WAY PAVED FOR SMITH VISIT TO ZAMBIA. ON ECONOMIC SIDE BOTH ZAMBIANS AND RHODESIANS SEEMED TO FEEL THERE WAS POTENTIAL FOR CLOSER COOPERATION IF NOT ULTIMATELY SOME FORM OF ECONOMIC UNION. IMPRESSION
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LEFT THAT ANC EXECUTIVE MEETING OF MUZOREWA, NKOMO, SITHOLE AND CHICKEREMA (PARA 4 REFTTEL) COULD BE LINKED WITH SMITH-KAUNDA MEETING IN SEARCH FOR FURTHER MOVEMENT TOWARD CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. WEBBER SAID HE DISCOURAGED RHODESIANS FROM SUGGESTING PRETORIA AS POSSIBLE CONFERENCE SITE, BECAUSE THEY COULD BE SUBJECT TO SOUTH AFRICAN PRESSURE THERE. WEBBER URGED LUSAKA AS SITE WHERE POSITION OF WHITE RHODESIAN FARMERS COULD BE HELPED

VIS-A-VIS ANC LEADERS BY CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE OF KAUNDA. WEBBER ADMITTED NDABANINGI SITHOLE'S MILITANCY IS TROUBLING ASPECTS AS RHODESIANS HATE HIM AND ARE PREPARED "FIGHT TO LAST MAN" IF NEW MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE REACHES IMPASSE AND THERE RENEWED RESORT TO ARMED STRUGGLE. HE BELIEVED HOWEVER ZAMBIANS ("THE ITALIANS OF AFRICA") WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID RETURN TO OPEN WAREFARE.

6. ASKED HOW FORTHCOMING VISIT OF UK MINISTER OF STATE ENNALS TO RHODESIA WOULD WORK OUT IN VIEW OF FOREGOING DEVELOPMENTS, WEBBER SAID BRITISH WOULD BE GIVEN COOL RECEPTION UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY HAVE DONE VERY LITTLE TO ADVANCE SITUATION AND ALL -- RHODESIANS, SOUTH AFRICANS, ZAMBIANS, ANBKANC -- FEEK UK ROLE SHOULD BE MINIMAL UNTIL TIME COMES FOR AFFIXING STAMP TO NEW CONSTITUTION LEGITIMATING BREAK WITH BRITAIN AND GIVING NEW CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS TO RHODESIAN BLACKS.

7. IN REPLY MY QUESTION, WEBBER SAID THAT IN VIEW HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH KAUNDA AND CHONA OVER PAST TEN DAYS, HE DOUBTED SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMER VORSTER WOULD HAVE VISITED ZAMBIA WITHOUT HIS KNOWING IT. COMMENT: DESPITE GRZ DENIAL, RUMORS OF VORSTER VISIT TO KAUNDA AT MFUWE SOMETIME IN PAST TWO WEEKS PERSIST IN LUSAKA.
WILKOWSKI

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